

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 /101 W

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R 112301Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2949

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS MEXICO 1830

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: GOM STONEWALLS LOCKHEED GRAFT CHARGES

REF: MEXICO 1579 (NOTAL)

1. WITH LEFTIST-INFLUENTIAL EXCELSIOR AT FOREFRONT, MEXICAN PRESS HAS CARRIED AMPLE ACCOUNTS OF LOCKHEED DISCLOSURES OF PAYOFFS TO FOREIGN OFFICIALS--INCLUDING MEXICAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS-- BEFORE SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONALS. ON FEB. 7, EXCELSIOR EDITORIALIZED THAT THE CHARGES REQUIRED AN INVESTIGATION AT THE SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, AIMED AT DETERMINING TRUE EXTENT OF THE SITUATION. EDITORIAL OBSERVED THAT SUCH INVESTIGATION, EVEN IF RESULTED IN VERIFYING CHARGES OF CORRUPTION, WOULD ATTACH NO STIGMA TO MEXICAN ARMED FORCES AS A WHOLE, SINCE PUBLIC REGARDS INSTITUTION AS ABOVE SUCH THINGS.

2. RESPONSE FROM DEFENSE SECRETARY GEN. HERMENIGILDO CUENCA DIAZ WAS SWIFT AND TO THE POINT: "THERE'S NO TRUTH TO IT. FROM WHAT I HEAR, IT'S A DISPUTE AMONG AIRPLANE MANUFACTURERS, IN WHICH MEMBERS OF THE CIA

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ARE ALSO INVOLVED WITH THE AIM OF DISCREDITING

PRESIDENTS AND GOVERNMENTS. AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED,
THERE'S NOTHING TO IT. WE'RE CLEAN."

3. ON FEB. 11, SEMI-OFFICIAL EL NACIONAL BACKED UP
CUENCA DIAZ. IN AN EDITORIAL TITLED "AN INSTITUTION
ABOVE SUSPICION", NACIONAL OBSERVED THAT A "TRANSITIONAL"
LIKE LOCKHEED, IN VAGUE DIFFICULTIES WITH ITS OWN
GOVERNMENT, WAS NOT ABOVE SLANDERING OTHERS, EVEN THOSE
OF THE PRESTIGE OF THE MEXICAN MILITARY. MEXICAN ARMY
IS CERTAINLY ABOVE THIS SORT OF THING, IT CONTINUED,
AND IS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO TASK OF SAFEGUARDING
MEXICO'S SOVERIGNTY AND ITS INSTITUTIONS. LOCKHEED
MIGHT WELL BEG FORGIVENESS; THEY WILL CERTAINLY NEVER
DAMAGE THE PRESTIGE OF MEXICAN MILITARY. AND NACIONAL
ADDS: "IT COULD VERY WELL BE THAT TRANSNATIONAL
COMPANY IN QUESTION INTENDED TO TAKE PART IN SOME ANTI-
MEXICAN CAMPAIGN, SUCH AS BREAKS OUT FROM TIME TO TIME
ABROAD, AND ALTHOUGH IT HAD NO OTHER WEAPON THAN LIES
WAS TRUSTING IN THE CYNICAL MAXIM 'SLANDER,
AND SOME OF IT WILL STICK'".
JOVA

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